Subsidised Services to Poor

890. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the services to the poor are subsidised out of the increased revenue from corporate/business sectors;

(b) whether it is a fact that considering the delays in transmission of mails/articles and the hike in postal tariffs the poor are resorting to telecommunication which has become affordable now; and

(c) what steps are being taken to evolve a better efficient and cheaper mode of postal communications to the poor in comparison to telecom facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) During the year 2001-2002, the amount of subsidy provided in respect of important services which fulfil social objectives is as under:

Post Card	92.50%
Inland Letter Card	67.45%
Indian Postal Order	93.09%
Money Order	57.84%

(b) The reduction in household mail traffic is a global phenomenon and is due to emergence of alternative means of communication like e-mail and substantial reduction of rates for telephone calls. Generally, the postal services are efficient.

(c) The Department of Posts is providing efficient postal services through subsidised products and services. New initiatives like Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras for the rural areas are also meant to provide easy access to basic postal facilities in a cost effective manner.

Termination of Licence of M/s. Koshika Telecom. Ltd.

891. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not terminated licence of M/s. Koshika Telecom. Ltd. a licensee operating in Uttar Pradesh (East)

circle, despite the fact that the company did not honour the condition of migration to New Telecom. Policy 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the outstanding dues on the company as on the 31st May, 1999 and as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s. Koshika Telecom Ltd. were offered Migration Package and inspite of unconditional/ unequivocal acceptance of the same, the company did not fully comply with the terms and conditions of the migration package and defaulted in payment of licence fees. M/s. Koshika Telecom had been issued a notice for termination of licence in terms of license conditions. M/s. Koshika were reminded from time to time, lastly on 19.9.2001, for payment of licence fee dues failing which Licence was to be terminated. M/s. Koshika Telecom filed a petition in Delhi High Court in September, 2001 against termination of the Licence wherein an Interim Stay on termination of licence was granted by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court. The High Court disposed off the case with its Judgement and Order dated 31.05.2002 which *inter-alia*, stipulated payment of principle amount of outstanding licence fee dues by 15.07.2002, failing which the DoT was free to terminate the licence. However, M/s. Koshika have further filed an appeal in the Division Bench of Delhi High Court against the Judgement and Order dated 31.05.2002 and the matter is presently sub-judice.

M/s. Koshika also filed case in Delhi High Court raising a dispute about License fee dues and seeking Arbitration in the matter, the Hon'ble Delhi High Court (Single Bench) have appointed Arbitrator to resolve the dispute between DoT and M/s. Koshika. The Arbitration proceedings have yet not started. The DoT will put up its claim for recovery of the outstanding dues against M/s. Koshika before the Ld. Arbitrator.

(c) The Licence fee (excluding interest) that was outstanding as on 31.05.1999 in respect of Licence of M/s. Koshika Telecom Limited for UP East Telecom Circle was Rs. 146.32 Crores approx. The Licence fee (excluding interest) that is outstanding as on 17.7.2002 in respect of the said Licence, without taking the migration package into consideration is Rs. 131.31 Crores approximately.